

REMARKS

Claims 57-63 have been cancelled, claims 64 and 68 have been amended, and new claims 69-71 have been added. Claims 64-71 are currently pending in the application.

The subject matter of new claims 69-71 generally track the subject matter of previously presented claims 65-67.

Claims 64 and 68 now describe generally the embodiment of the invention described on page 6, line 4, to page 7, line 21.

Specific basis for terms in the amended claims are as follows:

Claim(s)	Term/Phrase	Basis
64, 68	"analytical device"	Generally, page 6, line 4, to page 7, line 21. Specifically: Page 6, lines 5-6, Page 6, lines 9-10, Page 6, line 12, Page 7, line 6, Page 7, line 8, etc.
64, 65	"detection region" in regard to "separation channel"	Page 20, line 2.
64, 65	"detector" with a "field of detection"	Page 7, line 6, and line 9.
64, 65	"supply roll" and "take-up roll"	Page 6, lines 11-16.

No new matter has been added by the amendments. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 103(a)

In paragraphs 16-22 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 64-68 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parce (U.S. patent 5,885,470). The Examiner again pointed to elements of Applicants invention (assembly from planar elements; polymeric elements; elongate form; containing a network of channels; electrodes; and the like) that are disclosed in Parce, and further set forth passages in Parce that support his position that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill to achieve Applicants' flexible sheets containing arrays of microchannel devices. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the passage at col. 6, line 23, of Parce discloses the construction of microfluidics devices with flexible materials, and again states without support that Parce would render flexible sheets containing pluralities of microchannel devices obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection, particularly in view of the amendments, which now include the feature that the "flexible elongate laminate" containing a plurality of

microstructures is contained in rolls in operable association with an "analytical device." As stated before, Parce merely teaches the construction and use of individual microfluidics devices. There is no teaching or suggestion of devices comprising arrays of microchannel structures that would be suitable for high throughput assays. Neither does Parce teach or disclose flexible devices that can be rolled or folded for compact use.

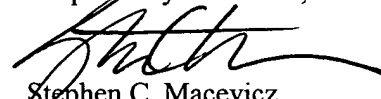
In regard to the Examiner's characterization of the passage starting at col. 6, line 23, Applicants respectfully disagree that this would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to flexible sheets of pluralities of microstructures. Applicants submit that the passage only describes the use of flexible materials to create sealable bonds between parts, as indicated in the following excerpt:

Upon mating the two substrates, the natural adhesion of the soft, less rigid substrate, either to another less rigid substrate or to a more rigid substrate, *allows formation of an effective fluid seal for the channels and chambers*, obviating the difficulties associated with gluing or melting more rigid plastic components together. (emphasis added)

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

If any additional time extensions are required, such time extensions are hereby requested. If any additional fees not submitted with this response are required, please take such fees from deposit account 50-2266.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures:

Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Time Extension